

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 15 has been amended to correct a formality issue. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. 5,749,538) in view of McCarthy (U.S. 4,098,469). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

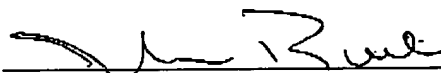
In the previous Office Action, claim 5 was identified as including allowable subject matter. In the Amendment filed on January 4, 2006, claim 5 was rewritten in independent form as new claim 15. New claim 15 included the allowable limitations of claim 5 in addition to all of the limitations base claim 1 and intervening claims 3 and 4. Therefore, claim 15 and the claims that depend from it should be allowed over Brown and McCarthy.

Reconsideration of the application is requested in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612.371.5387.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Joshua N. Randall
Reg. No. 50,719
JNR:ae